

Application No. 09/778,687

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Reply dated 30 January 2007

Responsive to Office Action mailed on 31 October 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims supersedes the previous listing of claims.

1 through 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A changing aid comprising a mat and at least one effect generating mechanism joined to the mat, the effect generating mechanism being adapted to transform at least a portion of an article adapted to be worn externally on a body of a wearer from a first condition to at least one second condition by changing a size, a thickness, an absorbency, a breathability, a flexibility, a rigidity, an elasticity, or a tackiness of the portion of the article or by making a connection between the portion of the article and another portion of the article or by activating or deactivating an adhesive during an application of the article onto the body or a removal of the article from the body to thereby assist in the application or the removal.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The changing aid of Claim [[20]] 19 wherein the ~~material property is a flexibility, a size, a tackiness, or a combination thereof~~ flexibility, the size, or the tackiness is changed.

22. (Previously Presented) The changing aid of Claim 19 wherein the effect generating mechanism is adapted to produce a thermal effect, a magnetic field, or an electric current.

23. (Currently Amended) The changing aid of Claim 19 wherein the effect generating mechanism is adapted to transform the portion of the article to activate or deactivate [[an]] the adhesive.

24. (Previously Presented) The changing aid of Claim 19 wherein the effect generating mechanism is adapted to temporarily transform the portion of the article.

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25. (Currently Amended) The changing aid of Claim 19 wherein the effect generating mechanism is adapted to transform the portion of the article to connect a first portion of the article with a second portion make the connection between the portions of the article.

26 through 36 (Cancelled)